

Monday 27th September



The Global Day of Prayer for the Rohingya (3rd October) comes at a time of uncertainty and turmoil for the Rohingya. The continuing Covid pandemic and the brutal aftermath of the military coup in Myanmar have left many Rohingya feeling desperate and hopeless. Let us focus our prayers on Jesus, who is the only Hope for the hopeless!

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”(Romans 15:13)

The Rohingya have faced decades of rejection and suffering and their future looks bleak. Let us stand in faith together and pray for Rohingya people around the world to know the love, freedom, and hope that comes from the loving Father.

Listen to this worship song: All My Hope by Hillsong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyHZwkd4bys>

- Pray for the Rohingya people to find their hope in Jesus.
- Pray for them to find justice and peace.
- Pray that while they do not have an earthly homeland they would recognise that they have an eternal home with Jesus.

Tuesday 28th September

The Covid pandemic has massively disrupted economic and social life all over the world. Whilst the impact is felt in the wealthy west, how much worse is the reality for those at the bottom of the spectrum – the disenfranchised and uprooted Rohingya. A deadly third wave of Covid is ravaging Myanmar, where the health system lies in ruins after the military coup. Oxygen is in extremely short supply and experts predict that hundreds of thousands of lives will be lost. The refugees in the camps in Bangladesh are facing even harsher restrictions on their movement, and hardly any opportunity remains to earn much needed cash. Many Rohingya in Malaysia who depend on low-paid jobs under very harsh conditions have been without income for many months. Wherever the Rohingya are, they are amongst those who feel the economic and health impact of the crisis the worst.

The words of this psalm are valid for the Rohingya today as well:

“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” (Psalm 42:5)

- Pray for healing for those who have contracted the virus

- Pray that God would have mercy on the families who have lost loved ones to Covid
- Pray that God would provide for the daily needs of those without income
- Pray that desperate and hopeless people will find hope in Jesus

Wednesday 29th September

Social Media and hope for a good future

Many Rohingya people are active on social media. This provides a great opportunity to connect online with people who are spiritually seeking. The Media to Movements team uses advertising on social media platforms in the Rohingya language to engage people in faith conversations. The aim is to show them the hope found in the God of Hope and his son Jesus Christ.

It works like a funnel. At the top you have a wide reach through digital media: praying for the adverts to reach where the Holy Spirit is already at work. These people can respond by initiating a digital audio conversation; this may lead to a face-to-face meeting and opportunity for discipleship. These successive steps would form the bottom of the funnel, connecting and ministering to individuals who are responding to the message.

We pray that many Rohingya people will put their hope in the Lord: "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."(Isaiah 40:31)

- Pray that the adverts on social media are seen by Rohingya people who are seeking
- Pray for boldness for Rohingya to respond to the adverts
- Pray for protection for the Rohingya Christians who are the 'first responders'
- Pray for wisdom and creativity for the team in deciding what media to use

Thursday 30th September



Resilience: Hope anchored in God

Resilience is a quality many Rohingya people seem to have. Adapting to stressful life

changes and 'bouncing back' from hardship is part of their everyday life. However, unforgiveness and hurt can be a barrier for Rohingya people to encounter the love and freedom found in Jesus. True resilience does not mean a person is unaffected by situations. It is about having a response that allows a person to move on despite the suffering and grow from it. As Christians we believe this is only possible with the grace and mercy of a loving God. Through faith in Jesus we are upheld by God's power and able to be resilient:

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Declare this verse over the Rohingya. May they come to know the truth that they were created by a God who deeply loves them and cares for them. The current situation is not the end for the Rohingya – the God of Hope will sustain them and help them be resilient .

- Pray for God to strengthen and protect those who are weak and vulnerable
- Pray Rohingya people would come to know the love and peace found in Jesus
- Pray people would see how God is at work through tragedy and loss
- Pray the Rohingya will choose to trust in the Lord rather than rely on their own understanding

Friday 1st October

There are an estimated 200,000 Rohingya refugees living in Malaysia. The majority are single men, working to support family members in Bangladesh/Myanmar. In the past couple of years, there has been an increase in the number of women being trafficked into Malaysia as brides with marriages being arranged in the refugee camps of Bangladesh. People tend to cluster around big cities where work is available: Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Klang Valley, and Johor Bahru have the largest populations.

What is life like:

Şira is 16 years old and she was trafficked to Malaysia to marry and within a month of arriving she was married and pregnant. She spends her days alone, as her husband works long hours six days a week on a construction site. About to start her own family, Amira deeply misses her mother. She has not accessed any pre-natal care because she doesn't have a UNHCR card and is scared of being arrested. Unable to speak the local language, she will soon deliver her baby at hospital with no understanding of what is happening.

Let's pray:

- That the Rohingya will have a thirst for truth and soft hearts to receive the Father's love.
- For peace and love to be present in Rohingya homes within Malaysia.
- For the women living in a country foreign to them, for them to be open to the love of Isa.

Saturday 2nd October



Issues that Rohingya refugees in Malaysia face:

1. Trafficking routes: People arrive in Malaysia through trafficking routes. Most travel by boat, some arrive overland via Yangon and Thailand; a few come by air using fake passports.
2. No protection or welfare. The state offers no protection or welfare for refugees in Malaysia. The UNHCR is present and works to protect the rights of refugees in Malaysia. Many Rohingya do not have a UNHCR card which puts them at risk of arrest and time in detention.
3. Work. It is technically illegal for refugees to work, leaving the Rohingya open to exploitation. Most men work long hours, earning up to US\$15 a day. Sadly, many bosses are unscrupulous, often paying less than promised or withholding salary. People send money to their families in Bangladesh/Myanmar, leaving very little for food and rent.
4. Isolation and loneliness. Rohingya women typically do not leave the home, so do not learn Bahasa Melayu or English. This can lead to isolation and loneliness. Sadly, domestic violence is prevalent within many homes.
5. Children cannot go to local schools. Rohingya children cannot go to local schools. There are some refugee schools, but they are not accessible to all. Currently very few children have access to education past elementary level.
6. Healthcare. Access to safe and affordable healthcare is a challenge for many refugees. Those without a UNHCR card fear arrest and high medical bills. With a UNHCR card people are entitled to a 50% discount at government hospitals and should not be arrested.

Let's pray:

- That local believers and Malaysian churches will grow a heart for the Rohingya.
- That the Malaysian government will give the right to work and access education to refugees.
- For protection and safety for people making the journey to Malaysia who are currently in the hands of traffickers.